




**TO:** Mayor and Council

**FROM:** Bert Lumbreras, Assistant City Manager 

**DATE:** March 27, 2015

**SUBJECT:** Meet & Greet Reception for Animal Services Officer Candidates

Attached you will find a press release that will be issued today to announce the Meet and Greet reception for candidates vying for the Animal Services Officer position.

Four candidates will be interviewed earlier in the day on April 7th. Finalists will be selected after the interviews and invited to the meet-and-greet session with the public. Those scheduled for interviews include:

- Dustin Deel, Assistant Director of Municipal and Community Services, City of Weatherford, Texas
- Tawny Hammond, Animal Shelter Director, Fairfax County, VA
- Kevin Hertell, Executive Director, Second Chance Center for Animals, Flagstaff, Arizona
- Anne Martinez, Assistant Director, Department of Youth Services, Bernalillo County, Albuquerque, New Mexico

The meet and greet will be held Tuesday, April 7, 2015, from 6:00pm – 8:00pm at the Palmer Events Center (PEC), Meeting Room 5. The PEC is located at 900 Barton Springs Road.

This is a very important position for the City of Austin and we expect a significant amount of attendees. In an effort to maintain objectivity in our decision making, we are specifically seeking community feedback on each of the candidate's strengths and weaknesses.

If there are any questions, please let me know.

Cc: Marc A. Ott, City Manager  
Chris Noble, Interim Animal Services Officer



**For immediate release**

March 27, 2015

Contact: Patricia Fraga, Communications and Public Information, (512) 974-2969

## **City seeks public input on Chief Animal Services Officer *Meet-and-greet set for April 7***

The City of Austin will host a community meeting April 7 for the public to meet candidates for the new Chief Animal Services Officer and provide input about who is selected for the position.

The meeting will be from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Palmer Events Center 900 Barton Springs Road.

This position will oversee the operations of the largest open intake municipal animal shelter in Central Texas which provides shelter to more than 18,000 animals annually and services to Austin/Travis County. The Chief Animal Services Officer will lead a staff of 98 with an annual budget of \$10.6 million.

At the April 7 meeting, participants will have the opportunity to hear from and interact with the individuals selected as candidates and will be asked to offer feedback regarding the candidates' strengths and weaknesses.

Four candidates will be interviewed earlier in the day on April 7. Those scheduled for interviews include:

- Dustin Deel, Assistant Director of Municipal and Community Services, City of Weatherford, Texas
- Tawny Hammond, Animal Shelter Director, Fairfax County, VA
- Kevin Hertell, Executive Director, Second Chance Center for Animals, Flagstaff, Arizona
- Anne Martinez, Assistant Director, Department of Youth Services, Bernalillo County, Albuquerque, New Mexico

Deputy Animal Services Officer Chris Noble has served as Interim Officer since the departure of Abigail Smith in December. Noble did not apply for the permanent position.

Since October 2010, Animal Services has worked on a 34-point No-Kill Implementation Plan with the support of community partners such as Austin Pets Alive!, the Austin Humane Society, EmanciPet and Animal Trustees of Austin, as well as more than 250 volunteers.

In February 2011, the Center earned no-kill status surpassing the 90 percent benchmark for such designation by reaching a 92 percent live animal outcome rate which was unprecedented nationally.

Since then, the Animal Center has maintained its no-kill status, increasing live outcomes while reducing animal intakes.

###